അവിടെനിന്നെല്ലാം വളരെ ആവലാതികൾവരും. ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ വൈകുന്നു, ബിൽ കാഷുചെയ്തിട്ടും വൈകുന്നുണ്ടു എന്നുള്ള ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾ ഇടക്കിടെ വരാറുണ്ട്.

Students' League—Trichur—order issued prohibiting students from taking part in the League.

327. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether the Director of Public Instruction has issued a circular prohibiting students from joining and taking part in the Students' League in Trichur;

(2) if so, will they be pleased to place a copy of it on the table?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*).—

(1) No. The Manager, C. M. S. High School, Trichur, reported that the Students' League seemed to be quite an independent institution which took up subjects of all sorts—social, literary, *State and political matters*—for discussion. Thereupon a memo was issued to the Headmaster of the school and the Inspector of Schools, Northern Division, to instruct the pupils to sever their connection with the League since it was of a political character also.

(2) A copy of the memo is placed on the table. (*Appendix I*).

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—Cannot the students interest themselves in State and political matters?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*).—The Government cannot give an off-hand reply to this question because the word can be used in very different degrees of comprehensiveness. The students can hold parliamentary debates under the guidance of the teachers and talk in decent language anything political.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—What are the State and political subjects which they discussed?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*).—I did not make an exhaustive search of the list of subjects. The request was to the Director of Public Instruction through the headmaster of the C. M. S. High School and the request was for the frequent use of the school hall. One of the rules in the Code

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is that school buildings whether under direct Government management or under aided agencies cannot be lent for discussion of topics of a political nature or of topics which are likely to generate friction between the different classes of His Highness' subjects. This is what the Headmaster has written: "The Students' League seems to me to be not a school society but quite an independent institution which takes up subjects of all sorts, social, literary, State and political matters, for discussion. So when the office bearers came to me for holding the meeting I said that they should get the Director's sanction in the matter. I don't know how far I will be justified in allowing State and political matters to be discussed here. Under the circumstances I solicit your orders".

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Suppose they do not want the use of the C. M. S. High school. Why should the students be prevented from taking an interest in State and political matters? May I know what were the nature of the subjects which they discussed which according to the Government seemed to be prohibitive?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—With regard to the first part of the question I will answer the Hon'ble Member by asking him another question. Are there not subjects which can be discussed by adults and which if discussed by people of tender age will not be considered as proper? With regard to the nature of the subjects I have not made an exhaustive enquiry into the list of subjects that were being discussed. One sentence from the letter of the association itself is relevant: "You are aware of the fact that the Students league has been formed here at Trichur. Under its auspices we wish to arrange inter-school and inter-collegiate discussions as well as occasional meetings to be addressed by educationists and others. For this purpose we have no premises of our own". I have not made a very close enquiry of the subjects that have been discussed or are likely to be discussed.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam.)*—Why should the word 'political' be a red flag to the Department? Is it not better to allow them to discuss State and political subjects in the premises of the school itself where there will be teachers to guide them in the interests of those students also? In this case, they are not mere urchins. They are college students.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—They are not college students. There are some college

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students also. Sir, there is a radical difference of opinion on this point. I could talk only from the standpoint of the ordinary educationist. So far as I am able to understand there are certain subjects that are suitable to be considered by mature minds but which ought not to be discussed by people of tender age.

Mr. President.—The point is you were satisfied that the activities of this association are such that students ought not to take part in them. So you issued the circular. Is it not?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—My question is how did the Director satisfy himself that it is a political body?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—There is the report of the Headmaster who on enquiry informed me that he had satisfied himself that the topics of discussion were not such as in his opinion would be considered proper.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—What is the harm in allowing the students to take part in discussions of State and political subjects? No doubt, I admit that ours is a slave country.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Anthikad).*—May I know, sir, whether any political or State subject was ever put on the agenda of this institution for discussion in any meeting?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—I have not examined the agenda. My information is that State and political matters have been discussed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Can we take it, sir, that the order here contained in this memo is not a general ban against students taking part in any political activities?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The order is very definite.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancherri).*—Here the order reads "The Headmaster is requested to issue orders to the pupils concerned to sever their connection at once with the league since it is of a political character also". I stick to enquire whether this amounts to a general ban on all students

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taking part in any political activities or of the particular themes that were placed before the Director by the Headmaster?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—I don't quite understand the distinction. The order is a specific order prohibiting certain boys from joining a certain definite association. The order does not say that no student shall at any time in the State discuss political questions. The issue is quite definite and the order is also equally definite.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*—Has the Director of Public Instruction or the Headmaster of the C. M. S. High School looked into the objects of the league of which these students have become members?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—I have not looked into the objects. These boys came to me some time previously and wanted me to help them. I said that if it was confined to students and teachers alone I have no objection. When I found that it was being used as a platform for outside discussion I restricted.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether the Director did look into the constitution of the League?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—I have looked generally into the constitution of the league.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—I think the Director has sent a message at the time of the inauguration of the league.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Yes. That itself shows that the Government have absolutely no objection to help the activities of the league being carried out.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether the Director knows who is in charge of this league?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The persons who came to me were students.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur Rural).*—What is meant by 'independent institution"?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction.)*—Not a society affiliated to a school or college.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*—May I know whether before sending this message for the inauguration the Director of Public Instruction knew anything about the constitution of the league in which the students were going to take part?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—I answered this question. The pupils came to me and explained it.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*—What was the political or State subject that they took up for discussion which is observed here as State and political matters?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—I refuse to be drawn into a discussion about the agenda of the league.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen *(Kattur).*—Do the Government concede that the order has not been passed after an enquiry?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—May I know what exactly were the subjects?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Sir, I once said that I refuse to be drawn into a discussion of the agenda.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—Will he kindly inform the House further whether there is a serious situation to have such a ban?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The ban itself is not serious.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—It is shutting out the whole student population from politics.

Girl students of Bolghatty—detention at the Bolghatty-Ernakulam ferry jetty.

328. Mr. P. Sankunni Menon *(Elamkunnapuzha).*—

(a) Are the Government aware of the fact that the girl students of Bolghatty, studying in St. Mary's High School, Ernakulam, and returning after their School anniversary on

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APPENDIX I.

(Question No. 327.)

L. Dis. 9108/12.

Office of the Director of
Public Instruction, Trichur,
13th February 1937.

MEMO.

Students' League—pupils—joining of.

Reference—Letter dated 3rd February 1937, C. 78/12 from the Headmaster C. M. S. High School, Trichur, forwarded by the Inspector, Northern Division, with C. 5171/12.

The Headmaster is requested to issue orders to the pupils concerned to sever their connection at once with the League since it is of a political character also.

(Sd.) Director.

To

The Headmaster.
,, Inspector, Northern Division.

APPENDIX II.

(Question No. 34.)

Statement.—

(1) G. Venkiteswara Ayyar, District Registrar, Vadakumkara.
(2) K Kuruvilla, District Registrar, Palanji.
(3) C. D. Sivaramakrishna Ayyar, District Registrar, Nemmara.
(4) K. H. Mohamed, District Registrar, Cochin.
(5) N. Ramankutty, District Registrar, Enamavu.
(6) C. K. Chathu Ezhuthassan, District Registrar, Mundur.
(7) V. K. Krishna Menon, District Registrar, Vellarapilly.
(8) K. Ranga Mallaya, District Registrar, Kattur.

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